

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The indication of allowability of claims 20 and 21 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claim 22 has been amended to recite that the food product contains less than 10 wt. % of fat, as disclosed on page 9, line 10.

"Sauces" describes a recipe for tomato butter. This tomato butter contains 50g of thick tomato coulis and 250g butter. Hence the bulk (83%) of the tomato butter is butter, meaning that the product closely resembles a butter in terms of fat content, consistency, etc. Hallstrom is concerned with spreadable butter substitutes. Kesharlal relates to pharmacologically and biologically active compositions for use in formulations for health care and nutrition applications (column 1, lines 5-9).

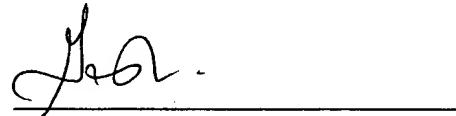
Present claim 22 recites a process for the preparation of a tomato sauce. Irrespective of the other features of claim 22, it cannot be seen how a process for the preparation of a tomato sauce can be obvious from the combination of the aforementioned three references as none of these references are concerned with tomato sauces. Furthermore, it is noted that these documents address different problems and indeed do not all relate to the same technical field. Hence, there was no incentive for a skilled person to combine the teachings of these documents.

Even if a skilled person were to attempt to combine the teachings of Sauces, Hallstrom and Kesharlal, the resulting product would appear to be a tomato butter, which is not encompassed by present claim 1 (which recites the preparation of tomato sauce) and

additionally recites that the tomato sauce contains less than 10 wt. % of fat. It is noted that butter typically contains about 80 wt. % of fat. Therefore, "Sauces" teaches a process for the preparation of a food product containing about 65 wt. % fat. Consequently, the process for the preparation of a tomato sauce containing less than 10 wt. % of fat as defined in present claim 1 is not obvious from the combination of Sauces, Hallstrom and Kesharlal.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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